

Weekly Field Memo – March 20, 2013

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From the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE):



SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Weekly Question

Audience: All

“Will all schools that volunteer be able to participate in testing?” View the answer to this week’s question [here](#).

Contact: Michael Hock at (802) 828-3115 or michael.hock@state.vt.us.

Common Core State Standards: Resources on Vermont Education Exchange (VE²)

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, All Educators



We have received numerous requests from the field for vetted resources that will support the implementation of Common Core. If you go to the VE² home page and click on CCSS (located on the red bar), you will find resources that have been reviewed by our content coordinators at the Agency. On the first page are resources that span the Common Core content areas. There are also additional links to resources specific to mathematics or English language arts. If you are not a member of VE², please join! Go to <http://ve2.vermont.gov>, click on login in the upper right hand corner. Next, click on signup and fill out the registration information. Once you receive an acceptance email, you will have access to the resources and groups within the site as well as the ability to post additional information or create your own collaborative group. Vermont educators working together can truly make this an exceptional site! **Contact:** Pat Fitzsimmons, Common Core Coordinator, at (802) 828-0196 or pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us.

Amendment Deadline (04/04/13): FY 2012-2013 BEST/Act 230 Grant Application

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators

Deadline: April 4, 2013

Amendments are processed if; the scope of work; changes, cannot be completed by 6/30/13 and changes by more than 10% of the total. Amendments must be approved before funds can be expended. Learn more about the FY 2012-2013 BEST/Act 230 Grant Application here: <http://bit.ly/Yrg7Yd>.

Contact: Sabine Baldwin, ISL Team, at (802) 828-0183 or sabine.baldwin@state.vt.us.

Old Documents, New Technology: Using Interactive Whiteboards to Explore Primary Sources

Audience: Classroom Teachers

Old Documents, New Technology: Using Interactive Whiteboards to Explore Primary Sources is a summer professional development workshop for Vermont teachers who want to improve their abilities to use interactive whiteboards and primary sources to teach US and Vermont history. Using resources from the Vermont Historical Society and the Library of Congress, the teachers will develop interactive whiteboard lessons to use in their classrooms and to share with other educators in preparation for teaching to Common Core State Standards. The lessons will be posted on SMART Exchange, Promethean Planet and other interactive whiteboard sites. This is a collaborative course from the Vermont Historical Society and the VT-AOE. For more information, and to register go to: <http://bit.ly/ZwEYrN>.

Contact: Sigrid Olson, Technology Integrationist, at (802) 828-0200 or sigrid.olson@state.vt.us

Connecting the Dots: A Common Sense Approach to Aligning Common Core State Standards & Planning for Students with Disabilities

Audience: Special and regular educators, principals, special education administrators, speech language pathologists, occupational and physical therapist, behavior specialists, school psychologists. School teams encouraged to attend the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA) Conference that will be held on **May 6, 2013** at the Holiday Inn, Rutland. This daylong conference will include presentation, team discussions and activities focused on: Instructional shifts as a result of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), IEP planning and much more! Learn more [here](#).

Contact: Jo-Anne Unruh, VCSEA Executive Director, at junruh@vcsea.net.

Save the Date: Multi-State Learning Technology Initiative Vermont Demonstration Showcase

Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators, Business Managers, Technology Directors / Coordinators

Join Peter Drescher on April 4th or April 5th at the Vermont College of Fine Arts Campus (Noble Lounge) in Montpelier to get overviews of the proposals chosen in the multi-state learning technology initiative that Vermont is a partner state in. School personnel are invited to come see the devices and proposal packages that Apple, CTL, and HP put forth and were selected for the Maine-based RFP process that took place over the past winter months for 1:1 computing. For some general information on the chosen vendors and pricing, visit: <http://www.maine.gov/mlti/rfp/> (VT falls in the Tier 3 pricing category).

Details are not ready yet for release, but if your schools have an interest please mark your calendars. A registration link will be circulated in next week's field memo. The timing is critical here, because contracts have yet to be completed and proposals cannot be shared until that resolves, but we are moving forward with planning the event nevertheless, with hopes that all will be in place and that proposals can be shared electronically prior.

Contact: Peter Drescher, Education Technology, at (802) 828-5149 or peter.drescher@state.vt.us.

Application for Student Membership on the State Board of Education

Audience: Principals, Technical Center Directors, Guidance Directors/Counselors, Curriculum Coordinators

Deadline: May 8, 2013

Governor Shumlin's office is in the process of appointing a student to the State Board of Education. Vermont is one of the few states with a full voting student member on its State Board of Education. As you know, this is an exciting opportunity for Vermont's young people, and the Governor's office is asking for your help informing students of its candidate search. Secondary students graduating from high school in 2015 or later are eligible to apply for a two-year term on the Board. During the student member's first year, they are a non-voting member. In the second year, the student will have voting rights along with the eight other adult members. The term for the student who is chosen will begin on July 1, 2013. If you are interested, send in a completed [**STUDENT APPLICATION FOR GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT**](#) to **Susan Spaulding**, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05609-1101. The deadline for applications is Wednesday May 8, 2013.

Contact: Susan Spaulding, Governor's Office, at (802) 828-3333.

Reminder: 2013 Custodian of the Year – Nomination Request

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Facility Managers

Deadline: April 5, 2013

Principals, superintendents, and school board chairs are invited to nominate professional school custodians for consideration for the 2013 Custodian of the Year Award. Qualified individuals will be current full-time school custodians who have served in a Vermont school for at least five years and who exemplify the positive qualities of a hard-working, dedicated member of their school team. Deadline for nominations is April 5, 2013. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/WefZD5>.

Contact: Cassandra Ryan at (802) 828-3144 or cassandra.ryan@state.vt.us.

Reminder: 2014 VT Teacher of the Year Nomination Process is now online!

Audience: All

Deadline: March 29, 2013

The Vermont Teacher of the Year program is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching our children. You are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher by

submitting your nomination online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/322XQF7>. The nomination should be made early enough, but no later than **March 29, 2013**, to ensure that the nominated teacher is given enough time to thoroughly prepare an application that reflects exemplary teaching prior to the application deadline. Nominees must submit their applications to the VT-AOE by **May 31, 2013**. A Teacher of the Year candidate should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled person from any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who intends to continue in the teaching profession. Learn more about the Vermont Teacher of the Year program [here](#). Download the Teacher of the Year application form [here](#).

Contact: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

Other Announcements:

Be a Part of the Decisions Made in Your Schools!

Audience: School Based Educators

The **TELL Vermont Survey** STARTS **March 25!** The survey is for ALL school based educators: Administrators, teachers, media specialists, and designated ESPs (classroom assistants and clerical). This is **your chance** to TELL leaders (anonymously) what **you need to do your jobs well**. We need every school to get a 40% response rate so each school has its own data for school improvement planning. Visit <http://www.tellvermont.org/> for all details. Survey supported by the Governor's Office, Vermont NEA and the Agency of Education.

Contact: Sherry Gile, Vermont NEA, at (802) 223-6375 or sgile@vtnea.org.

Health Department: Get Screened for Colorectal Cancer

Audience: All

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Screening is recommended for everyone (age 50 to 75). If detected, precancerous polyps (abnormal growths) can be removed before they turn into cancer. Read full press release here: <http://1.usa.gov/XnsG2u>.

Contact: Vermont Department of Health Communication Office at (802) 863-7281.

Flood Safety Awareness Week: Be Ready Year Round

Audience: All

Governor Peter Shumlin has signed a proclamation recognizing March 18-22 as Flood Safety Awareness Week in Vermont. The Vermont Division of Emergency Management, Homeland Security and the National Weather Service are joining the Governor to encourage Vermonters to learn about flood safety and prepare for future floods. Read full press release here: <http://bit.ly/YLjRC0>.

Summer 2013 Governor's Institute on food systems: Farms, Food and Your Future

Audience: All

This first-ever Special Topics Governor's Institute explores the **science, economics, policy, sociology** and **downright yumminess** of everything we eat. Come learn from scholars and professionals in the agricultural, culinary, scientific, business and activism fields during this brand-new residential Institute at Vermont Technical College July 28 – August 3, 2013. Lead professors are Tom Sabo and Jonathan Kaplan. This is a great opportunity for high school students! Learn more here: <http://www.giv.org/food>.

Contact: (802) 262-1084 or info@giv.org.

Vermont's Education Transformation - College Awards Entry

Audience: All

Norwich University entered their film "Vermont's Education Transformation" in the college awards competition. The film studies the innovation that is going on in Vermont's high schools to better meet the needs of students with different learning styles. Watch the film online: <http://vimeo.com/58021761>.

Contact: Bill Estill, Professor of Communications - Norwich University, at (802) 485-2022.

Life After High School – What's Next?

Audience: All

Please join the So. Burlington High School Community for a public talk on April 9, 2013 from 6:30 – 8:30pm at the South Burlington High School, 550 Dorset Street, So. Burlington. This talk, designed for high school college-bound seniors and their parents/guardians, will look at issues that impact 18 to 23 year olds as they transition to life after high school. David Landers, an instructor in psychology and gender issues at St. Michael's College, and Annie Cressey, a mental health educator at the University of Vermont will be guest speakers. Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/Yrllhw>.

St. Michael's College TESOL Diploma Program

Audience: All

Deadline: April 15, 2013

Saint Michael's College offers a four-week summer intensive TESOL Diploma program for entry-level educators who are interested in teaching English to international students in the USA or overseas. The program gets you on your feet and teaching with confidence. Successful Diploma graduates may earn 2 courses (6 credits) advance standing toward the MATESOL degree. The dates for summer 2013 are July 1-July 26. Apply by April 15. More information is available online: <http://bit.ly/UaZ23l>.

St. Michael's College Summer Course

Audience: All

Saint Michael's College is offering **two** summer courses within its MATESOL programs that may interest teachers of ELLs: Classroom Technology for ELLs K-12 (2 credits) and Language Learning & Assessment for Children (3 credits). Schedules, course descriptions and registration online: <http://bit.ly/13ckASd>.

Vermont I-Team: Inclusive Education Webinar Series

Audience: All School Administrators & Educators

The Vermont I-Team is hosting a series of webinars entitled "Inclusive Education Webinar Series" with Cheryl Jorgenson.

- **4/4:** Universally Designed Inclusive Classroom and students with Intensive support needs
- **4/15:** Universal Design Principles in Action for students with ISE.
- **5/2:** Supports for membership, participation and learning for students with autism, intellectual, and other developmental disabilities in the general education classroom.
- **5/16:** Discuss the changing roles of general and special education teachers and related service providers that support inclusive education.

All sessions will be from 3:00 to 4:30pm. Learn more about the Webinar Series [here](#), register [here](#).

Contact: Darren McIntyre at (802) 656-1132 or Darren.mcintyre@uvm.edu.

2013 Superintendent School Health Leadership Award

Audience: All

Deadline: May 1, 2013

Nominations are now being accepted for the American School Health Association's 2013 Superintendent School Health Leadership Award! Co-sponsored by ASCD, The Center for Health and Learning, and RMC Health, this award recognizes outstanding school district superintendents who have been Champions for School Health and Wellness! [Click here](#) for nomination materials. Nominations are due to ASHA Headquarters by 5:00pm (Eastern) on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. The Award winner will receive sponsored travel to the 2013 Annual ASHA Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact: Sharon Murray, RMC Health, at (303) 867-9112 or sharonm@rmc.org.

NEACAC's 2013 Essay Contest – Win a Scholarship for College!

Audience: High School Juniors and Seniors

High school juniors and seniors from New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) member high schools in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont are invited to submit a 500-word essay on the following topic: *Describe a counselor, teacher, or experience that has had the greatest influence on your decision to attend college. How has this individual or experience impacted your future? What will you do in college or beyond that will make a difference in your community?* Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/Xq0b46>.

Mark Your Calendars! The 2013 GRS Honorees are coming...

Audience: All

ED-GRS is a flurry of activity as some 45 reviewers from four federal agencies read nomination packages submitted by 30+ states. Among them are public, private, charter and magnet nominees, elementary through high school nominees, and district nominees. With large numbers of underserved schools nominated, the 2013 cohort is poised to confirm that green school practices -- environment as an integrating context to teach all subjects in hands-on, project-based learning, good environmental health, regular wellness practices, and attention to facilities maintenance, operations and sustainability -- are important and cost-effective tools to increase achievement, improve health, and reduce inequities. On [Earth Day](#), April 22nd, at 10am EST, the Department will announce the winners live [here](#), notify selectees via email, release the second annual [Highlights of the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Honorees](#), and post all honorees' [nomination packages online](#). The 2013 cohort will also include the Department's first District Sustainability Award honorees. Don't miss it!

U.S. Education Secretary Answers State Board Concerns at NASBE's Annual Legislative Policy Forum

Audience: All

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan spent an unprecedented hour responding to questions from state board of education members on issues ranging from waivers and sequestration to the Department's use of competitive grants. The discussion took place last Friday as part of NASBE's Annual Legislative Policy Forum. Presiding with Duncan were NASBE President Patrick A. Guida (RI) and Elaine Gantz Berman (CO), chair of NASBE's Governmental Affairs Committee. Read full press release [here](#).

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website. For information which is three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Angela Ross, Public Information Officer, at (802) 828-3154 or angela.ross@state.vt.us.

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